

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 /082 W

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R 180900Z JAN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1552

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L B A G H D A D 5 2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: IRAQI-IRANIAN CONFLICT

REF: BAGHDAD 07 (NOTAL)

1. GOI EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT WITH IRAN HAVE REACHED NEW INTENSITY WITH DEPARTURE OF FORMIN HAMMADI JANUARY 16 FOR MEETING IN ISTANBUL WITH IRANIAN FORMIN KHALATBARI. HAMMADI'S JAN 11-13 VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, UAE, QATAR AND BAHRAIN WITH MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT AL-BAKR GENERALLY ASSUMED HERE TO HAVE BEEN TO GENERATE ARAB PRESSURE ON IRAN.

2. AS PART OF ITS USUAL NEGOTIATING STRATEGY IRAQ IS AT SAME TIME ATTENPTING TO PRESSURE IRAN BY GENERATING PUBLIC OUTCRY BY HOLDING QUASI-OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1 TO DENOUNCE

IRANIAN INTERFERENCE IN KURDISH WAR.

3. SEEMS LIKELY THAT BEHIND ABOVE ACTIVITIES IS
IRAQI CONVICTION THAT THEIR ARMED FORCES COULD SOON END
KURDISH WAR IF IRANIANS WOULD CEASE DIRECT INTERFERENCE.
REUTERS CORRESPONDENT HUGO ANSON, WHO RECENTLY MADE SIX
DAY TOUR OF FRONT, TOLD ME IRAQI ARMY COMMANDER IN NORTH
HAD TOLD HIM THAT HIS FORCES COULD END WAR IN ONE WEEK
IF IRANIAN ASSISTANCE CEASED. WHILE FEW FOREIGN OBSERVERS
HERE ACCEPT THIS ESTIMATE, THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE
GOI LEADERS WANT VERY MUCH TO BELIEVE IT. LOWRIE

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